

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – INDUSTRY DAY**

### **DOD INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTERS**

#### **CYBER SECURITY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICAL AREA TASK CONTRACT (CS TAT)**

**28 May 2014**

1. Q – Can a small business propose on both competition pools – full and open plus small business set-aside?

1. A – The Government hasn't definitively established the source selection strategy but if there are two separate pools set up – one unrestricted/full and open and one for partial small business set-aside, small businesses will be able to bid on both. But small business offerors will need to furnish the requisite number of past performance projects and be able to answer the separate technical for each pool they bid on.

2. Q – What is a best and worst case scenario for RFP issuance and the proposal due date?

2. A – See slide #55 of the Industry Day presentation. These slides will be posted on the IAC home page at [www.iac.dtic.mil](http://www.iac.dtic.mil).

3. Q – Can a company be added as a subcontractor to a prime's team after contract award?

3. A – Yes. We encourage everyone to begin considering teaming at this time, especially to form teams capable of performing the size and scope of the unrestricted full and open pool TATs. Since each requirement is different, teaming strategies may change for each task order under the MAC.

4. Q – For the slide showing pre-award lead time (PALT), what is the start event for calculating PALT?

4. A – See Slide #31. It is calculated starting with Step 1 – RA contacts the DoD IACs with the requirement. But this date is somewhat imprecise because the initial contact and submission can take various forms.

5. Q – Is cross – teaming allowed, whereby an offeror bidding as a prime also proposes as a subcontractor on another prime's team?

5. A – Yes they could depending on their teaming agreement.

6. Q- How does the FAR 52.215-22 and 52.215-23 Limitations on Pass-Through, "70/30" clause requirement apply (stating that a prime contractor must perform at least 30% of the effort with its own personnel) – will it be enforced at the contract or task order (TAT) level?

6. A – It will be enforced at the TAT level but the Government will also evaluate the makeup of the prime offeror's overall team as part of the pre-contract award source selection for the overall contract.

It is noted a prime is permitted to subcontract out more than 70% of an effort, as long as it is adequately justified to the contracting officer to substantiate the value that will be added by the prime.

7. Q – Will the FAR 52.219-14 Limitations on Subcontracting clause be applied at the TAT or contract level?

7. A – It will be enforced at the TAT level.

8. Q – The IAC SNIM contract (predecessor to CS TATs) monitors and enforces the FAR Limitations on Pass Through “70/30” clause at the contract level. Why will CS TATs be different?

8. A – This is not the case. SNIM enforces it at the TAT level. This is an evaluation consideration for every TAT proposal.

9. Q – Will the Sample TAT included in the CS TATs RFP actually be awarded?

9. A – No

10. Q – The Government seeks to award a certain number of CS TATs contracts to large businesses and a certain number to small businesses. Will they be awarded together under one source selection like a “small business reservation”?

10. A – The tentative approach under consideration is to establish two separate award pools – a full and open pool and a small business set aside pool, which will entail a separate source selection decision for each pool.

11. Q – Will the draft CS TATs RFP include Sections L and M and a DD254?

11. A – Yes

12. Q – How will past performance project submission requirements work?

12. A – The Government is considering requiring five past performance project references for the partial small business set aside pool, with two projects demonstrating work performed by the prime.

13. Q – Isn’t there a potential for organizational conflicts of interest (OCI) if cross teaming is allowed, where a company is a subcontractor to a prime on one TAT and on another TAT, that subcontractor is the prime and the other company performs as subcontractor?

13. A – There would not necessarily be a conflict of interest in the example described because the two TATs would ostensibly involve two entirely different projects and customers. However, there could be many other types of OCIs that would arise on CS TATs. The RFP and contract will contain an OCI clause that will require offerors to disclose actual and potential OCIs to the contracting officer for evaluation.

14. Q – If a current SNIM TAT has a period of performance that ends on Nov. 1, 2015 (for example), with the CS TAT projected award date of October, 1, 2015, how would that affect the period of performance of that TAT or any follow-on TAT?

14. Q – The subject TAT's period of performance would not be affected by the ending of the SNIM ordering period. The SNIM contract ordering period ends on May 30, 2015 but may be extended for up to six months pursuant to options for extended services, meaning that the ordering period could be pushed out to November 30, 2015. A TAT can be issued any time during this ordering period and have a maximum period of performance of two years beyond the last day of the contract ordering period.

15. Q – Are the sample TATs envisioned to be hypothetical only?

15. A – Yes, but the Government will make them as realistic as possible.

16. Q – Will there be a two-phase source selection for CS TAT – for example, one factor is evaluated, then there are discussions or a down-select, and then another factor is evaluated?

16. A – No.

17. Q – The DoD IACS office has used a performance price tradeoff (PPT) evaluation approach successfully in prior acquisitions. Why is it now contemplating using a full-tradeoff approach?

17. A – A pass/fail technical evaluation approach is not really appropriate for research and development (R&D) efforts like CS TATs. R&D is nuanced. DoD IACS follows the USD AT&L guidance from Mr. Kendall that indicates full tradeoffs are appropriate for R&D requirements. For example, innovation is nuanced and lends itself to a graded scale evaluation to identify the best value offers. That is why the Government will be using a realistic Sample TAT to identify and evaluate how offerors differ in their technical approaches and understanding.

18. Q—The SNIM RFP contained three Sample TATs. Will there be a page limit on the CS TAT proposal Sample TAT section or will the page limit be 75 like on SNIM?

18. A – CS TAT will probably not require a 75 page proposal response for the Sample TAT(s). It is noted that the draft RFP will not include the Sample TAT(s) to ensure that the offerors have a realistic response timeframe. If the Government were to include the Sample TAT in the draft RFP, the much longer response time afforded to offerors would not be representative of the true life TAT response time which is typically about 30 days. Furthermore the unrestricted full and open pool will allow for a higher page count for the technical volume than the partial small business set-aside pool.

19. Q – How will the Government decide which TATs to set aside for exclusive small business participation?

19. A – As stated in the slides, the Government is currently contemplating establishing a partial small business set aside wherein TATs under a certain dollar threshold would be automatically set aside for exclusive small business competition.

20. Q – For the Small Business Set-Aside pool, the two past performance projects that the prime is required to have performed itself – can the prime have performed these projects in the role of subcontractor?

20. A – Yes

21. Q – How will the contract on- and off-ramp feature work?

21. A - Although the contract will have this provision, it is uncertain whether it will be in the Government's best interest to utilize it. Use of on and off ramps is resource-intensive. They have not been utilized on the SNIM contract.

22. Q – If separate award pools are established, with one being a small business set-aside pool, will the TAT customer (requiring activity, aka "RA") have any input over which pool is selected for competition of their TAT?

22. A – If this strategy is adopted, if a TAT falls under the set-aside dollar threshold, the set aside determination will generally be routine/automatic. However, there could be cases where the Contracting Officer determines there are not at least two capable, reasonably priced, interested small businesses to perform the TAT, in which case the set aside would be dissolved and the TAT would be competed in the full and open pool. In that case, the Contracting Officer would obtain the RA's input in making such a determination.

23. Q – When will the Government make its acquisition strategy decision for CS TATs?

23. A – See slide 55 of the presentation. The decision will have been made before issuance of the draft RFP (anticipated 30 June 2014).

24. Q – Has the Acquisition Strategy Panel (ASP) for CS TATs been conducted yet?

24. A – No.

25. Q – Who will serve as the Source Selection Authority (SSA) for this acquisition?

25. A – This is considered to be source selection sensitive information and cannot be disclosed outside the source selection team.

26. Q - Do you have to have a Top Secret Facility clearance to obtain any award on this acquisition.

26. A – Yes.